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ABSTRACT

The plight of the approximately 500,000 Metis, people of Indian and mixed blood, and Non-Status Indians, people of Indian ancestry who have lost their status for one reason or another, has been ignored both by the Federal Government and the Provincial Governments of Canada. The Metis and Non-Status Indians have won group recognition by organizing themselves in the different provincial areas of Canada. The Native Council of Canada, organized by the Metis and Non-Status Indians to serve them at the Federal level by working with the Federal government agencies and departments, parliamentarians, the National Indian Brotherhood, Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, and other organizations, is working to achieve the goal for the Metis and Non-Status Indians of full native participation in the mainstream of Canada's social, cultural, and economic life. Photographs of "The Forgotten People" and maps of Canada's provincial areas are included. (FF)

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the forgotten people . . .

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"Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, also the right to security in the event of unemployment, illness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

the forgotten people....

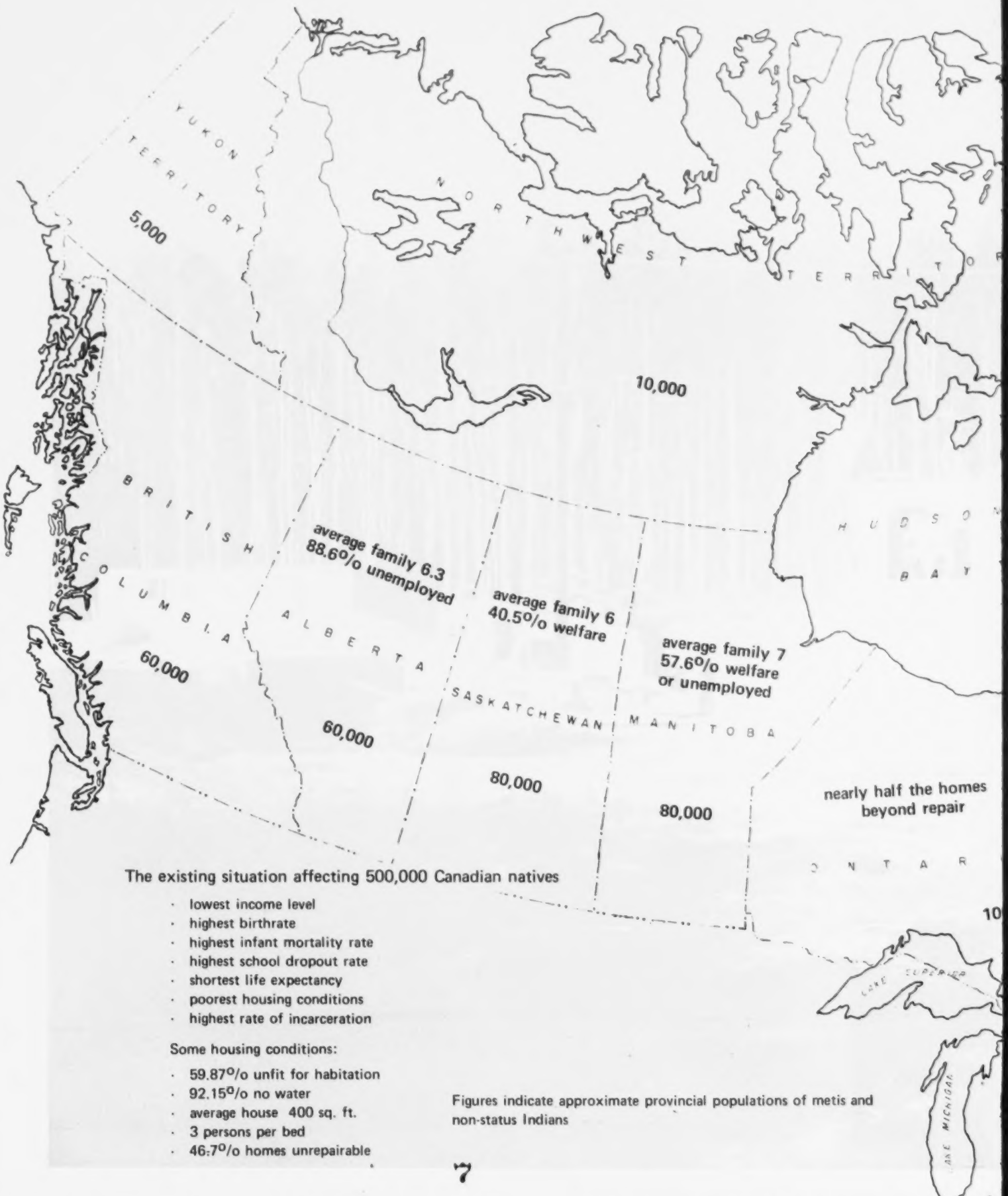
Prepared by NATIVE COUNCIL OF CANADA
Designed and Compiled by
John Dockstader
Photo credits: (Historic) NATIONAL ARCHIVES
Ottawa, March, 1972

natives and home

one may not make it as a citizen . . .

the other is living on borrowed time . . .

This Canadian child has a 3 per cent chance of getting through high school.



The existing situation affecting 500,000 Canadian natives

- lowest income level
- highest birthrate
- highest infant mortality rate
- highest school dropout rate
- shortest life expectancy
- poorest housing conditions
- highest rate of incarceration

Some housing conditions:

- 59.87% unfit for habitation
- 92.15% no water
- average house 400 sq. ft.
- 3 persons per bed
- 46.7% homes unrepairable

Figures indicate approximate provincial populations of metis and non-status Indians

opulations of metis and

- This is one kind of native home that shelters 7 people

- In the winter temperatures drop to 50 degrees below zero

- Canada is the second richest country in the world

- The average Canadian home is 1100 square feet and costs $22,000

METIS AND NON-STATUS INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS

The two Riel Rebellions (Red River 1870; Saskatchewan 1885) are the explosions which forcibly brought the Metis people to the national attention in Canada. But Metis had been here for a long time – some say they were born nine months after the arrival of the white man. They were the voyageurs, the explorers, the hunters who together with their Indian brothers made possible the opening of the North American continent. The Manitoba Act of 1870 admitted their existence by granting them 1,200,000 acres of land, and other Land Scrip and Land Grants Acts further recognized them as a separate, identifiable legal entity. The Riel Rebellions were fought over the land question and the basic conflict between the Metis culture and that of the white man. Neither problem has been settled to this day.

WHO ARE THEY?

They are people of Indian ancestry. Many of them to this day speak only the Native language, live the Native culture and identify with their Indian relatives. The Federal Government states that it has no responsibility for Metis and the Provincial Governments largely ignore them. They are Canada's most deprived people in terms health, education, housing, income and civil rights. The Non-Status Indians are those who have lost their Indian status for one reason or another. The Federal Government states it has no responsibility for them either and the Provincial Governments largely ignore them.

They are Canada's forgotten people.

WHAT OF TOMORROW?

There are about 500,000 Metis and Non-Status Indians scattered throughout Canada. They could well remain a drain on the Canadian economy, a vast waste of human dignity and human resources and a blight on Canada's claim to world leadership. They are Canada's living denial of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

But they have awakened to begin the long climb to the recovery of pride in their culture and in their heritage. They intend to become contributors to the social and economic life of Canada – for it was theirs before it belonged to anyone else! The Metis and Non-Status Indian Associations have come into being to achieve these objectives.

DEFINITIONS:

Person:	(Indian Act 1876-1951) an individual other than an Indian
Indian:	(Indian Act: 1951–) a person registered under the terms of the Indian Act.
Metis:	Spanish/French definition indicating mixed blood between Indian and other; also "half-breed", "breed". In the Prairie provinces and N.W. Ontario anyone of Indian ancestory, who is not under the Indian Act.
Non-Status Indian:	Person of Indian ancestory who has lost "Indian" status through enfranchisement, marriage, or who was not registered as an Indian or who was refused Indian status by the federal agency.

NATIVE COUNCIL OF CANADA

(Metis and Non-Status Indians)

On November 16, 1970 (the 85th anniversary of the hanging of Louis Riel) the leaders of the Metis associations of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta met with the President of the B.C. Association of Non-Status Indians at Victoria, British Columbia. Their purpose was to bring to reality an idea that had been thought about for many years: the formation of a national body to represent all those native people known as the Metis and non-status Indians. Subsequent meetings were held, and in April 1971, the Native Council of Canada came into formal existence with a head office in Ottawa, the national capital.

Three executive officers were elected at that time.

President:	A.E. (Tony) Belcourt (Alberta)
Vice-President:	Jim Sinclair (Saskatchewan)
Secretary-Treasurer:	Angus Spence (Manitoba)

A board of directors was established to act as the governing body for the Council, composed of the Presidents and Vice-Presidents (or alternates) from each provincial organization in existence or coming into existence. Since that modest beginning, less than a year ago, the board has been expanded to include two new directors from each of the following associations: Ontario, Quebec and the Yukon. Initial groundwork has been completed in the Northwest Territories and in the Maritime provinces.

The main purpose of the Native Council of Canada is to serve its member associations by acting as their group agent at the federal level in Ottawa. Its further purpose is to present a united front in securing for individual provincial or territorial organizations programs and policies that can meet needs at the local level. In carrying out these functions, the Council works with federal government agencies and departments, parliamentarians, the National Indian Brotherhood, Inuit Tapirisat of Canada and all other organizations to achieve the goal of full native participation in the mainstream of Canada's social, cultural and economic life.

During the first year of the Council's operation, its policies were set by its board of directors, until the first Annual General Assembly could be held. This meeting is now taking place and it is this assembly that must guide the future direction of the Council.

The national office is located at: 77 Metcalfe Street, Suite 1010, Ottawa, Ontario. Telephone: 613 – 238-3511.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION OF NON-STATUS INDIANS

700, 144 West Hastings St.,
Vancouver, B.C.

The British Columbia Association of Non-Status Indians was incorporated in April, 1969 in Victoria, B.C. They held six major meetings with provincial and federal governments and presented thirteen major briefs to various governmental bodies. They have established thirty-eight locals in British Columbia. They also were instrumental in establishing the Native Council of Canada.

Priorities:

- housing
- education
- employment
- human rights (legal and social)

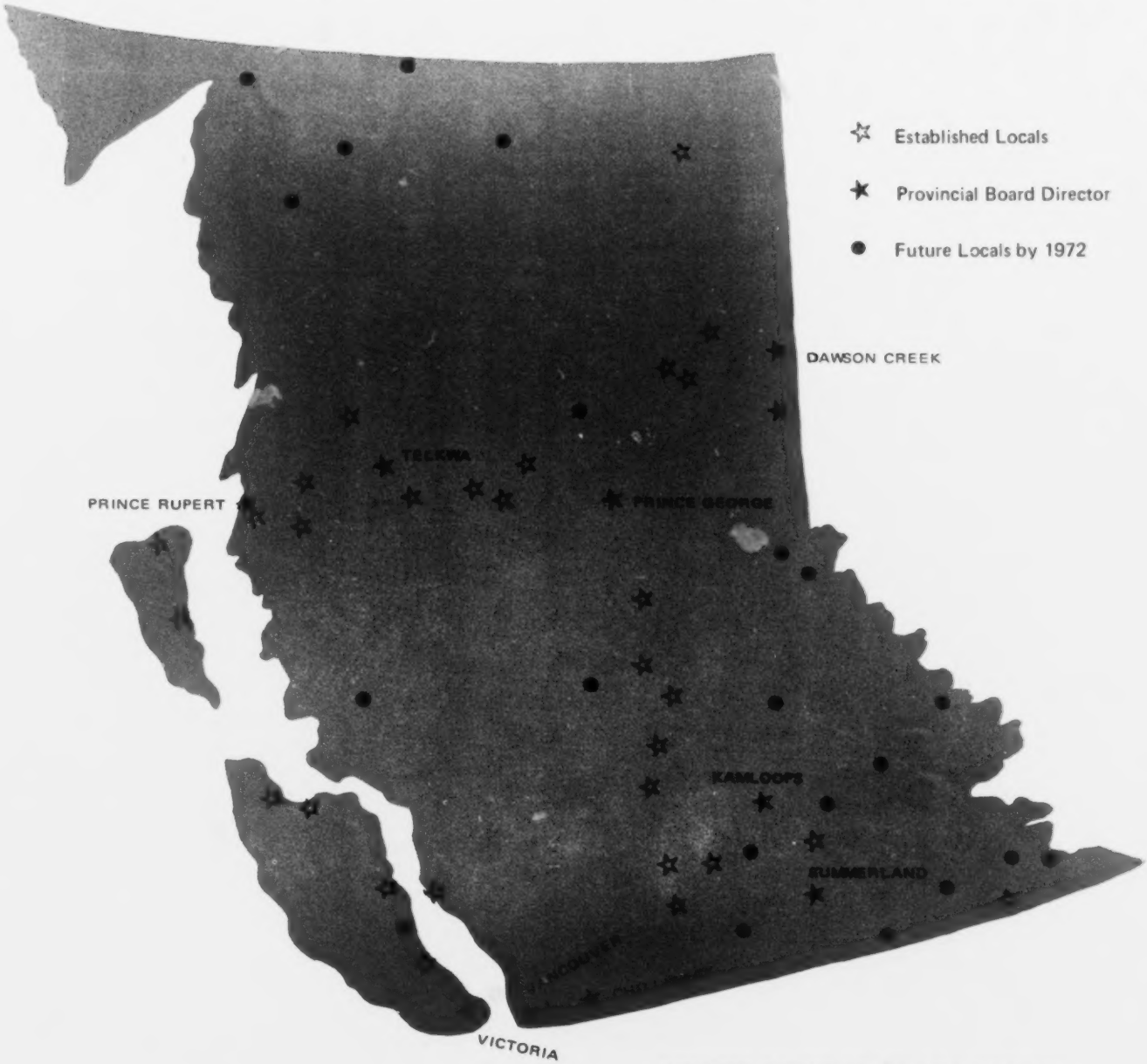
Projects Initiated:

- Chetwynd Housing
- Dawson Creek Arts & Crafts Centre
- Moccasin Miles
- Long House (Williams Lake)
- lumbering business (Williams Lake)
- Native Court Workers Association of B.C.

Planned:

- provincial housing program
- Dree program
- health and welfare
- socio-economic demographic study
- training in skills and profession, (i.e. Manpower, Health and Welfare, etc.)
- foundation for assistance to university students
- extension of ARDA agreement with British Columbia
- leadership courses
- Opportunities for Youth Program
- feasibility studies of:
    1. tannery
    2. fish packing plant
    3. incorporated Share-Capital Company
- improved communications system

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION OF NON-STATUS INDIANS



President:	Fred House Dawson Creek
Vice-President:	Lawrence Gladue Williams Lake
Secretary-Treasurer:	Gloria Gabert Vancouver
Executive Director:	Len Maracle

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Leonard George Telkwa	Al Thomas Kamloops
Fred Gladue Kelly Lake	Mike Robson Prince George
Anne House Dawson Creek	Doris Senger Summerland
Floyd Herrling Chilliwack	Campbell McDonald Victoria
Ivan Adams Prince Rupert	

METIS ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA

100th Avenue Building
Rm. B-1, 10405–100th Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta

The Metis Association of Alberta was founded in Edmonton in 1961. Since 1969, the Association has held five major meetings and presented five major briefs to provincial and federal agencies. The Association has established 71 locals throughout the province. It has assisted these locals in initiating some 29 projects throughout the province. The Alberta Association was actively involved in the founding of the Native Council of Canada. It has held numerous workshops and leadership seminars throughout the province.

PRIORITIES:

- land tenure
- housing
- education
- economic development
- health
- communications
- culture
- recreation

PROJECTS INITIATED: (province-wide)

- housing survey
- winter warmth (50 communities)
- leadership training and political development
- opportunities for youth
- land settlement
- welfare
- court workers
- drug and alcohol counselling
- publication of "Many Laws" (local level)
- employment counselling – Edmonton
- lumber co-ops – Wabasca, Calling Lake, Marlboro
- construction co-operative – Calgary
- housing corporations – Edmonton, High Prairie, Calgary, Lac La Biche
- economic and social development – Lac La Biche, Kikino, Caslan, High Prairie
- education counselling – Edmonton
- education assistance to Metis students in higher education

METIS ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA

☆ Established Locals

★ Local with Provincial Board Director

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Clarence Longmore
10141–154 Street
Edmonton, Alta.

Mr. Joe Blyan
11427 Jasper Ave.
Edmonton, Alta.

Mr. Henry Houle
10839–94 Str.
Edmonton, Alta.

Mr. Sam Johnston
Paddle Prairie
Alta.

Mr. Richard Poitras
Paddle Prairie,
Alta.

Mr. Henry Tomkins
Joussard
Alta.

Mr. Frank Ladouceur
Fort Chipewyan
Alta.

Mr. Adrian Hope
Kikino
Alta.

Mr. Sam Sinclair
Hinton,

President: Mr. Jim Ducharme
10405–100 Ave.
Edmonton, Alta.

Vice-President: Mr. Harry Daniels
10405–100 Ave.
Edmonton, Alta.

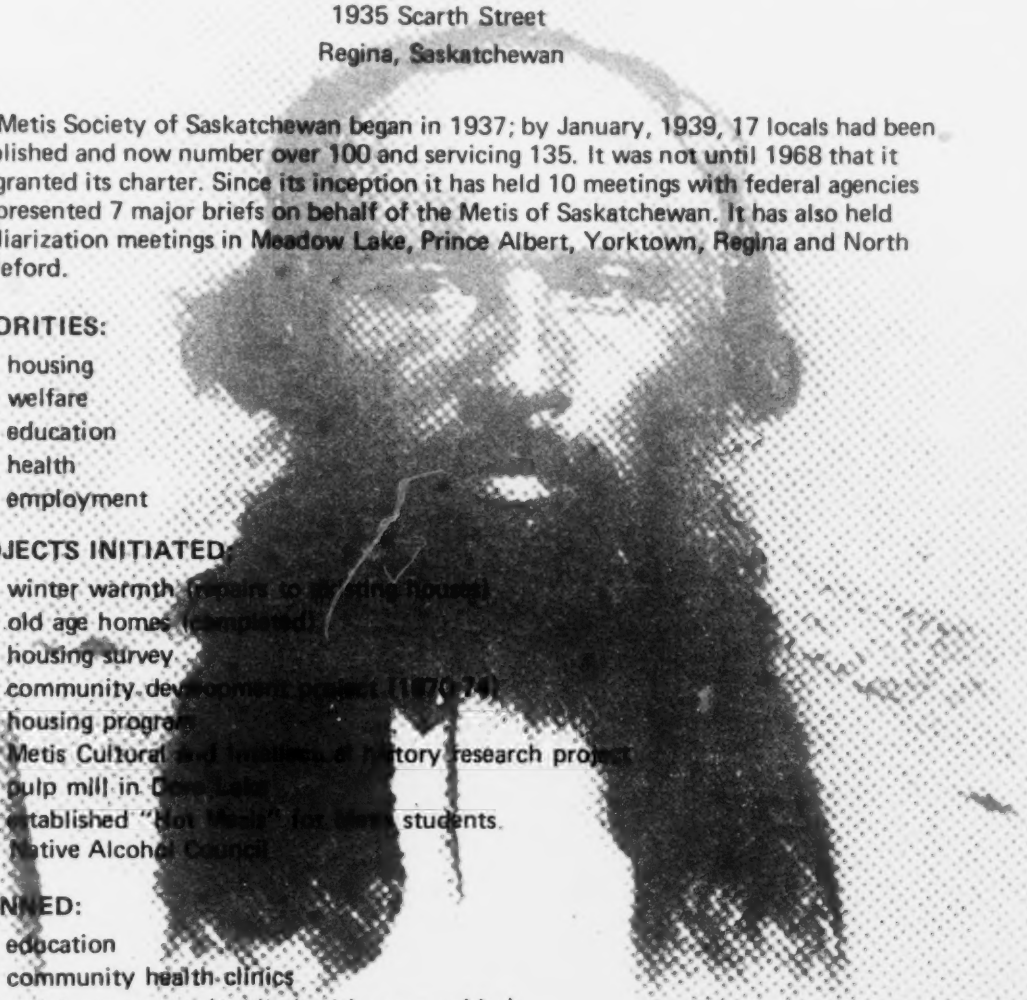
Secretary: Mr. Arnold Strynadka
7721–110 Str.
Edmonton, Alta.

Treasurer: Mr. Stan Daniels
9810–105 Str.
Edmonton, Alta.

METIS SOCIETY OF SASKATCHEWAN

1935 Scarth Street
Regina, Saskatchewan

The Metis Society of Saskatchewan began in 1937; by January, 1939, 17 locals had been established and now number over 100 and servicing 135. It was not until 1968 that it was granted its charter. Since its inception it has held 10 meetings with federal agencies and presented 7 major briefs on behalf of the Metis of Saskatchewan. It has also held familiarization meetings in Meadow Lake, Prince Albert, Yorktown, Regina and North Battleford.



PRIORITIES:

- housing
- welfare
- education
- health
- employment

PROJECTS INITIATED:

- winter warmth (repairs to existing houses)
- old age homes (completed)
- housing survey
- community development project (1970-74)
- housing program
- Metis Cultural and Institutional history research project
- pulp mill in Dore Lake
- established "Hot Meals" for [illegible] students
- Native Alcohol Council

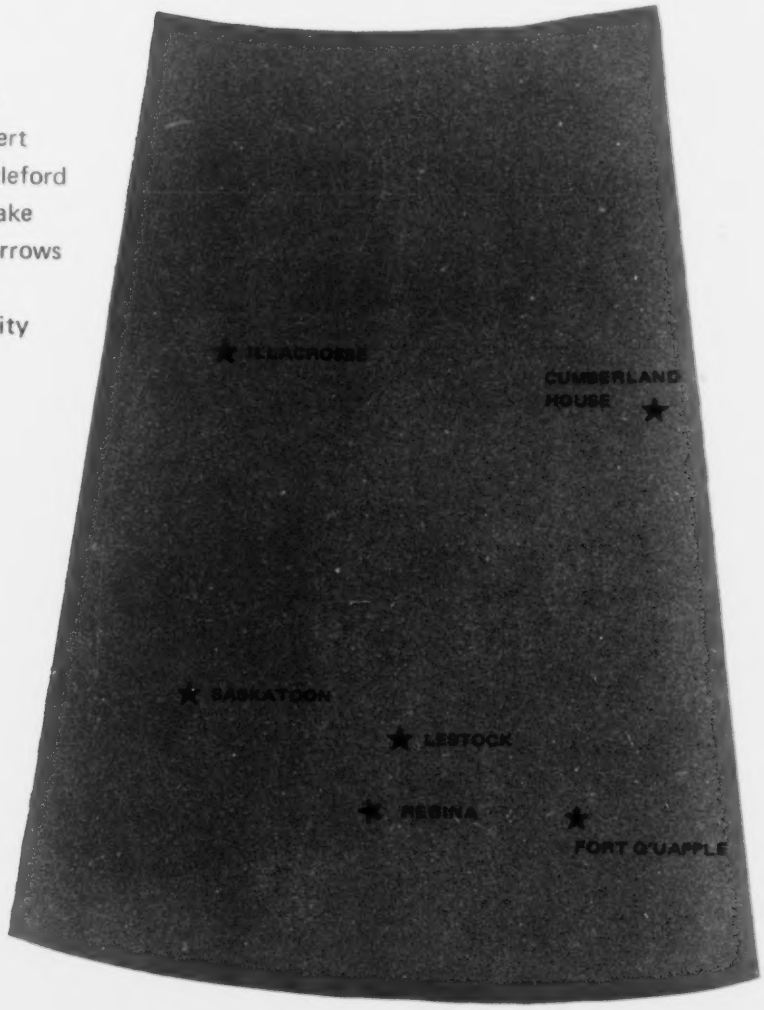
PLANNED:

- education
- community health clinics
- training program (public health nurses aides)
- cultural program
- documentation of Gabriel Dumont
- collective history of Metis leaders
- court workers program
- establishment of "Pride House"
- legal aid
- youth program (Saskatchewan Native Youth)
- recreation
- employment counselling and placement

METIS SOCIETY OF SATSKATCHEWAN

OFFICES:

- Regina
- Saskatoon
- Prince Albert
- North Battleford
- Meadow Lake
- Buffalo Narrows
- La Ronge
- Uranium City



★ Locals with Provincial Board Director

President:	Jim Sinclair Regina
Vice-President:	Nap LaFontaine Regina
Secretary:	Rose Schnieder Regina
Treasurer:	Jim Durocher Regina

*** Direct communications to Regina Office**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bill Nault Regina	Walter Schoenthal Regina
Wilbert Desjarlais Regina	Rae Hamilton Regina
George Raymond Regina	Pierre Carrier Cumberland House

MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION

122–388 Donald Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba

The Manitoba Metis Federation was founded December 1967. It has established six regional zones throughout the province. It has 93 locals that operate through the regional office. The Manitoba Federation was also actively involved in the formation of the Native Council of Canada.

PROJECTS INITIATED

- Thompson project (employment – counselling)
- Housing (Manitoba Metis Federation Housing Corporation)
- Remote Housing Program (300 units completed)
- Winter Workshop (500 units repaired)
- MANWAP (social and self development)
- Native ex-inmate rehabilitation
- Education (bursaries for Metis students)
  (curriculum and content changes)

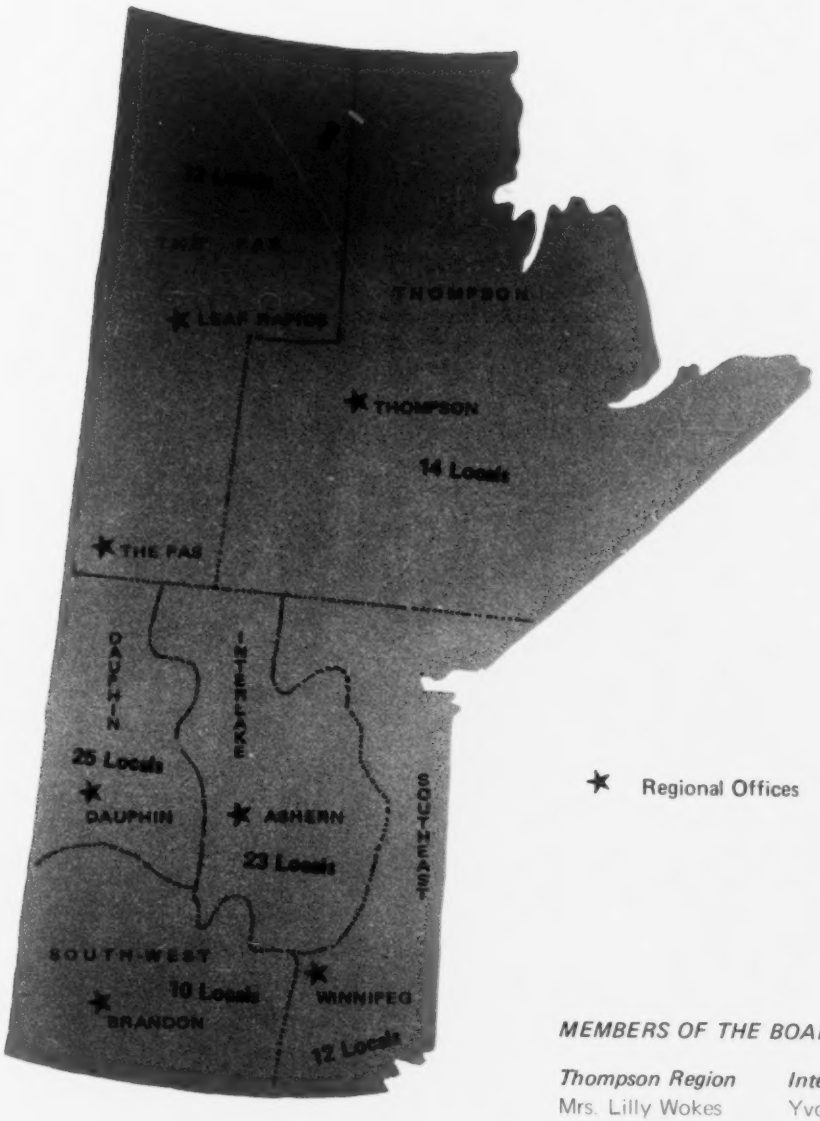
INVOLVEMENTS:

- Economic Development
- Special Arda
- Communities Economic Development Fund
- Co-operative Economic Development Fund

PROJECTS PLANNED

- Remote Housing (200 units)
- Redesignation of Provincial Housing Act

MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION



★ Regional Offices

President: J. Angus Spence

Manitoba Regional Vice-Presidents

Ben Thompson	– Thompson Region
John Morrisseau	– The Pas Region
Ferdinand Guiboche	– Dauphin Region
Ken Desjarlais	– Interlake Region
Rita McTavish	– S.W. Region

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thompson Region
Mrs. Lilly Wokes
Mr. Ed Head

The Pas Region
Bill Cook
Alfred Head

Dauphin Region
Delphis Flamand
Camperville, Man.

Interlake Region
Yvon Dumont
Hubert Sinclair

S.W. Region
Steve Lavallee
Lorne Atkinson

S.E. Region
Sylvia Thomas
Ernie Guibault

Walter Menard
Dauphin Regional Office
315 – 4th Ave. S.W.

THE ONTARIO METIS AND NON-STATUS INDIAN ASSOCIATION

116 North Cumberland Street
Thunder Bay, Ontario

The Ontario Metis and Non-Status Indian Associations was chartered on June 1971. Since its founding it has held one major meeting on Human Rights and presented one major brief.

It has established 18 locals, throughout the province and 21 more are either planned or being organized.

Priorities:

- housing

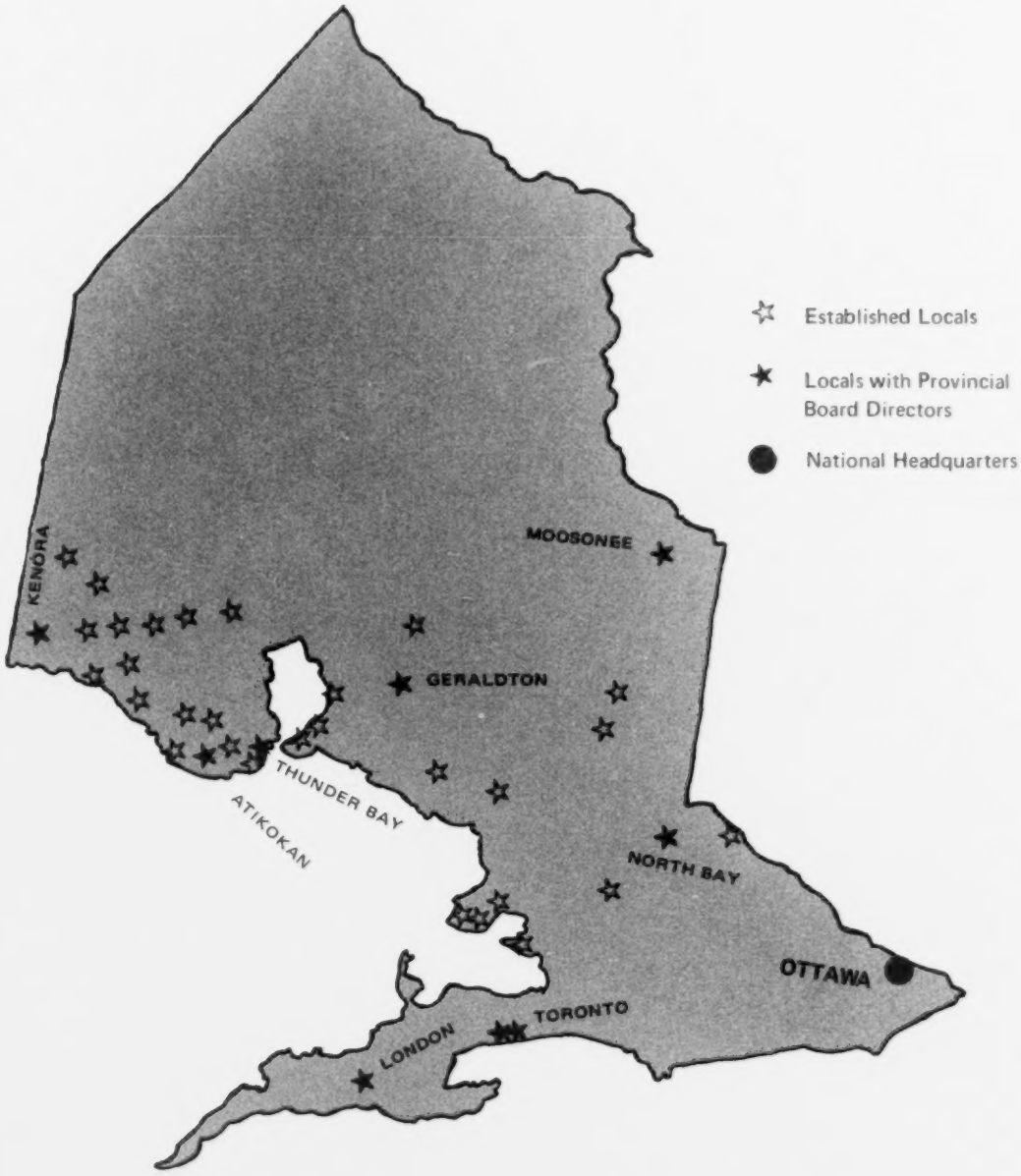
Project Initiated

- housing survey (July 1971)

Planned Projects

- winter warmth (repairing existing houses)
- *housing programme including:*
  - land
  - land availability
  - economic base
  - mortgage payment
  - local construction material
  - on-the-job training
- multi-culture community centre (Atikokan)
- assistance in Organizing Ontario Metis and Non-Status Women's Association

ONTARIO METIS AND NON-STATUS INDIAN ASSOCIATION



President: Ed Lyons, Thunder Bay

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Claude Bruyere, Ft. Francis
Theresa Hall, Cochran
Rita O'Sullivan, North Bay
Rosemarie Moffitt, Toronto
Patrick McGuire Sr., Macdiarmid
George McGuire, Thunder Bay

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Maurice Godin, Kenora
Louis Bruyere, Atikokan
Monica Turner, Geraldton
Ed Kilar, Thunder Bay
Garry Dupuis, Moosonee
Jim Morrison, Moosonee
David Prescott, Thunder Bay
Yvonne Meyer, London
Vern Harper, Toronto

QUEBEC ASSOCIATION OF METIS AND NON-STATUS INDIANS

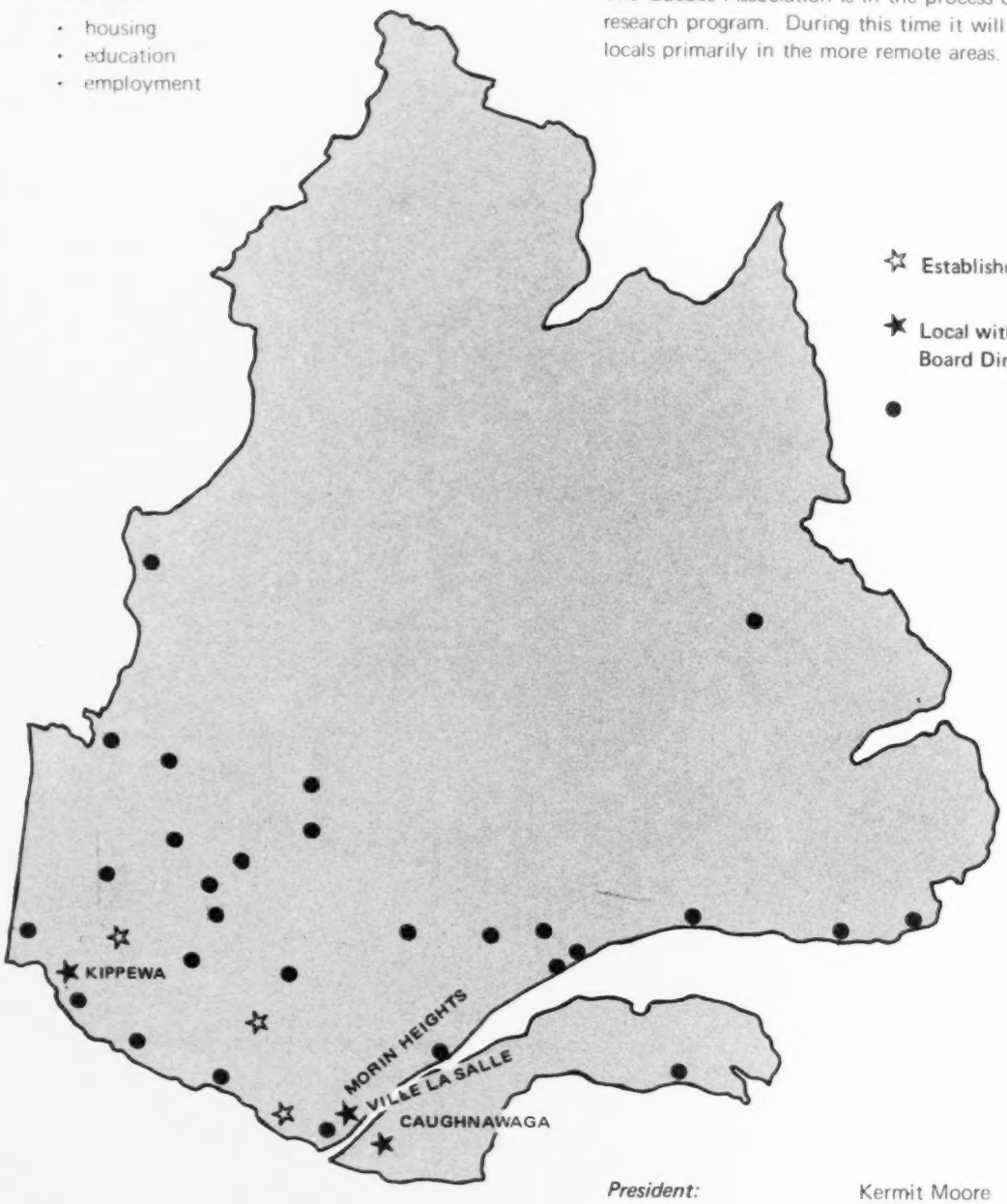
Provincial Headquarters
Ville La Salle, Quebec

In the process of becoming incorporated under the Societies Act.

Priorities

- housing
- education
- employment

The Quebec Association is in the process of developing a housing research program. During this time it will be establishing new locals primarily in the more remote areas.



10 Directors Yet to be named

President: Kermit Moore
Morin Heights

Vice-President: Francis Robinson
Kippewa

Secretary-Treasurer: Gail Stacey-Moore
Caughnawaga

YUKON ASSOCIATION OF METIS AND NON-STATUS INDIANS

3159 – 3rd Avenue
Whitehorse, Y.T.

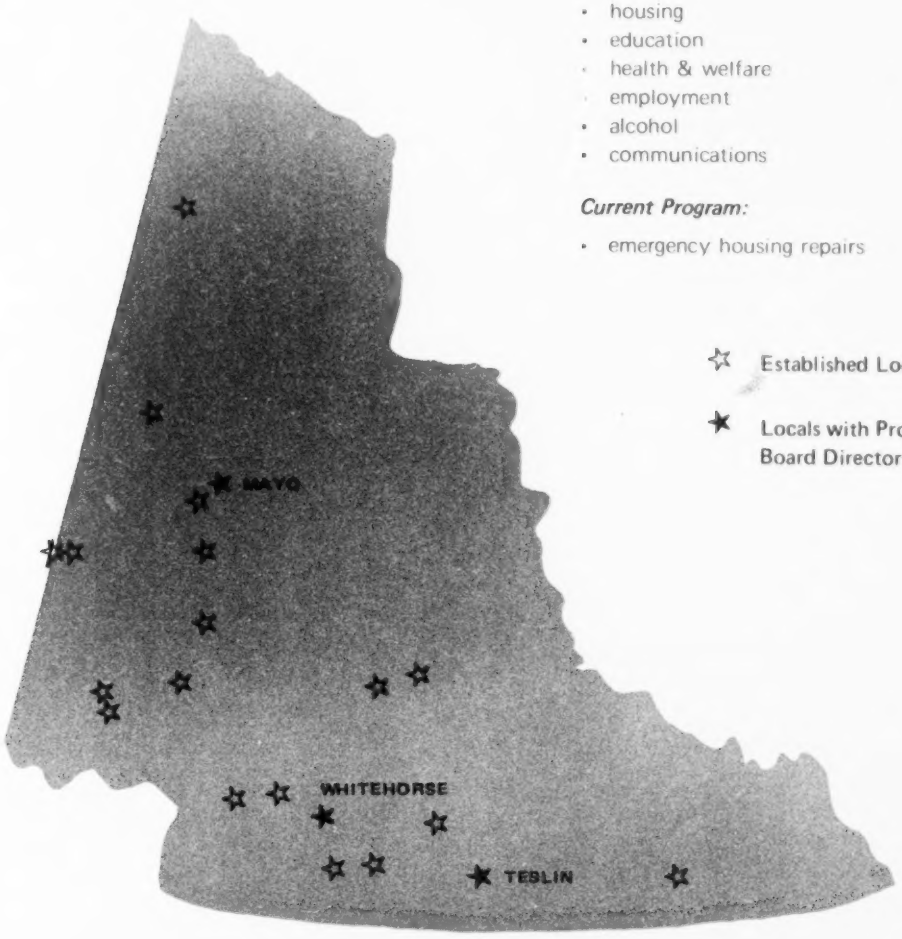
The Association held its founding conference on February 18-20, 1972, in Whitehorse. The Association plans to further develop membership and establish more locals throughout the Yukon.

Priorities:

- housing
- education
- health & welfare
- employment
- alcohol
- communications

Current Program:

- emergency housing repairs



☆ Established Locals

★ Locals with Provincial Board Directors

President:	Joe Jacquot Whitehorse
Vice-President:	Margaret Joe Whitehorse
Secretary:	Edna Rose Whitehorse
Treasurer:	Peggy Nolan Whitehorse

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ted Geddes Teslin	Bill Webber Whitehorse
Doris McLean Whitehorse	Allan McDiarmid Mayo
George Asp Whitehorse	